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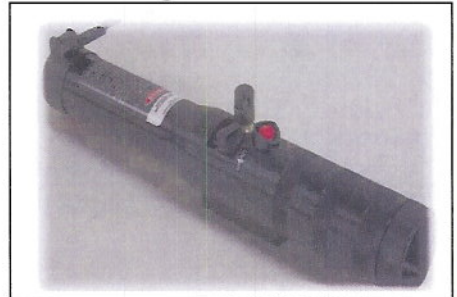MAY 0 5 2010

USFI-DCG-O

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Laser Fratricide

1. There have been numerous recent incidents involving Laser Fratricide. These incidents are the result of personnel being "dazzled" with a green beam designator (GBD) laser. Green lasers are a tool in Escalation of Force (EOF) procedures; however, when not used properly, green lasers can cause permanent eye damage. Many of the incidents occurred when personnel used the laser as a friendly recognition signal. In one recent scenario, a convoy was passing through a roadway check point (CP) when a vehicle driver and the vehicle gunner were exposed to a green beam "dazzler" and suffered temporary vision loss injuries. Personnel controlling the CP recognized the convoy as a friendly unit and used a GBD for recognition signals.

2. A recent USF-I FRAGO outlines Green Laser Training Guidance to USF-I OPORD 10-1 and provides training and safety procedures to maintain green laser EOF advantages while mitigating the associated risk of eye injuries. Examples of safe operating procedures include:

- Never intentionally point the laser at anyone except an aggressor.
- Never shine the laser at anyone's face if they are closer than 50 meters.
- Include laser safety precautions when briefing ROE and EOF procedures.
- Ensure laser operators are trained on proper use and familiar with hazards and controls.

3. The laser is an invaluable, non-lethal weapon. Commanders and leaders must ensure personnel are thoroughly familiar with laser hazards, control measures, and the proper employment of these devices. A key hazard mitigation is the engagement and training of Iraqi Security Forces and acknowledging their concerns and reasons for employing lasers on United States Forces. We must be disciplined in use of any laser.

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ROBERT W. CONE
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Commanding General
Operations

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